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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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John S. Wang

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7590

02/18/2005

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EXAMINER

MEEK, JACOB M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2637

DATE MAILED: 02/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/955,278	Applicant(s) WANG ET AL.	
	Examiner Jacob Meek	Art Unit 2637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 67 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 67 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 September 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because Figures 1, 2a, and 2b are scaled such that they are difficult to read. It is requested that these illustrations be made larger to enhance legibility. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application

by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1 - 3, 5 - 7, 12 - 14, 16, 18, 19, 24 - 32, 35 - 44, 46 - 48, 53 - 55, 57, 59, 60, and 65 - 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Everitt et al (US Patent 5,880,645).

With regard to claim 1, Everitt teaches an adaptive equalizer device comprising; one or more controllable analog filters (see Figure 3, 310 and column 2, lines 60 - 61) comprising; one or more data inputs (see Figure 3, 302 and column 4, lines 39 - 43), one or more control signal inputs (see Figure 3, 364 and column 5, lines 1 - 2), and one or more outputs for carrying filtered output signals (see Figure 3, 312), and one or more error generators (see Figure 3, 330) for assessing the performance (see figure 3, 340 and column 4, lines 48 - 54) of one or more controllable analog filters according to one or more error functions (see column 5, lines 22 - 27) coupled to one or more analog filters comprising; one or more inputs for receiving filtered data signals (see Figure 3, 312, 330) from controllable analog filter, and one or more outputs for carrying error generator output data signals (see Figure 3, 332).

With regard to claim 2, Everitt teaches an adaptive equalizer comprising one or more processing modules (see figure 3, 340) for processing error generator output data signals (see figure 3, 332).

With regard to claim 3, Everitt teaches an equalizer device where processing module compromise one or more acquisition blocks (see figure 3, 340, 350) for applying one or more acquisition filters (see column 4, lines 47 – 57 where this is interpreted as equivalent) to one or more of error output signals (see column 4, lines 47 – 57 where this is interpreted as equivalent) creating one or more processed signals (see figure 3, 362, 364, 370 where these are interpreted as equivalent) comprising one or more inputs (see figure 3, 332) for receiving error output signals and one or more outputs for carrying processed data signals (see Figure 3, 362, 364, 370).

With regard to claim 5, Everitt teaches an equalizer device comprising one or more equalizer controllers (see Figure 3, 340 where this is interpreted as being equivalent) for controlling one or more controllable analog filters (see Figure 3, 310) according to one or more algorithms (see figure 3, 340 where an algorithm is an inherent part of calculation function) comprising one or more inputs for receiving equalizer controller input signals (see figure 3, 332, 360) and one or more outputs for carrying control signals coupled to one or more of control signal inputs (see Figure 3, 362, 364, 372).

With regard to claim 6, Everitt teaches an equalizer device wherein equalizer controller input data signals compromise processed data signals (see Figure 3, Output to 350, 360) or error generator output data signal (see figure 3, 332).

With regard to claim 7, Everitt teaches an equalizer device wherein the controllable analog filter compromises a digital, analog, or hybrid device (see column 5, line 8 – 10).

With regard to claim 12, Everitt teaches an adaptive equalizer wherein one or more the data signal inputs comprise analog, sampled analog input or digital input (see figure 3, input and column 1, lines 23 – 27).

With regard to claim 13, Everitt teaches an equalizer device wherein one or more of control signal inputs compromise analog or digital inputs (see column 4, lines 51 – 57).

With regard to claim 14, Everitt teaches an adaptive equalizer wherein equalizer controller compromises one or more processing units, microprocessors, SW modules, FW modules, or digital devices (see Figure 3, 340, where calculator could be interpreted a being any of those means).

With regard to claim 16, Everitt teaches an adaptive equalizer wherein equalizer controller compromises one or more external control signal outputs (see figure 3, 370,364,362 where there are interpreted as external control outputs).

With regard to claim 18, Everitt teaches an adaptive equalizer wherein equalizer controller compromises one or more external control signal inputs (see figure 3, 332,360 where these are interpreted as external control inputs).

With regard to claim 19, Everitt teaches an equalizer device wherein the controllable analog filter compromises one or more data signal outputs (see figure 3, 312).

With regard to claim 24, Everitt teaches an adaptive equalizer wherein error generator compromises a weighting function (see figure 3, 330 where this is interpreted as equivalent).

With regard to claim 25, Everitt teaches an adaptive equalizer further comprising one or more modules comprising a capacity reporting module, device status module, link monitor or monitoring module (see column 5, lines 21 – 34 where this is interpreted as equivalent functionality).

With regard to claim 26, Everitt teaches an adaptive equalizer further compromising one or more modules compromising a receiver gain module (figure 3, 304), a decision threshold level module (figure 3, 314), DC offset module (see figure 3, 380).

With regard to claim 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 35, 36 the steps claimed as method is nothing more than restating the function of the specific components of the device as claimed above and therefore it would have been obvious considering the aforementioned rejection for the device of claim 1, 19, 24, 2, 3, 5, 6 respectively.

With regard to claim 29, Everitt teaches a level shift function (see Figure 3, 370, 372, 380 where this is interpreted as a level shift function).

With regard to claim 37, Everitt teaches a method for executing joint optimization of one or more external devices (column 4, lines 51 – 57).

With regard to claim 38, Everitt teaches a method further compromising the step of assessing capacity, device status or link monitor status based on filter coefficients (see Figure 3, 340 and column 4, lines 47 – 48 where calculator performs assessment function which is interpreted as equivalent functionality).

With regard to claim 39, Everitt teaches a method further compromising the step of reporting capacity, device status or link monitor status based on filter coefficients (see Figure 3, 350, 360 and column 4, lines 48 – 54 where FIFO performs reports history status which is interpreted as equivalent functionality).

With regard to claim 40, Everitt teaches a method of operating iteratively (see column 4, lines 58 – 64 where convergence is interpreted as an iterative process).

With regard to claim 41, Everitt teaches a method of adapting a filter based on sampled values of outputs. The operation of this device makes an initial setting of the filter inherent in order for operation to occur, as a starting point must be established for operation to occur.

With regard to claims 42 - 44, 46 - 48, 53 - 55, 57, 59, 60, 65 - 67 Everitt teaches an optical networking system (see column 1, lines 22 - 26 where this is interpreted as inclusive of optical networking systems) comprising an adaptive equalizer device with additional limitations analyzed as identical to limitations in claim 1 - 3, 5 - 7, 12 - 14, 16, 18, 24 - 26 respectively.

3. Claims 1 - 4, 27, 31 - 34, and 42 - 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee et al (US Patent 6,038,266).

With regard to claim 1, Lee teaches an adaptive equalizer device comprising; one or more controllable analog filters (see Figure 4, 50, 56, 62 and column 8, lines 36 - 40) comprising; one or more data inputs (see Figure 4, 48), one or more control signal inputs (see Figure 4, 68, 72, 76, 78 and column 8, lines 36 - 40), and one or more outputs for carrying filtered output signals (see Figure 4, Y), and one or more error generators (see Figure 4, 68 and column 8, lines 18 - 24) for assessing the performance (column 8, lines 18 - 24) of one or more controllable analog filters according to one or more error functions (see column 8, lines 33 - 36) coupled to one or more analog filters comprising; one or more inputs for receiving filtered data signals (see Figure 5, 58, 66 outputs) from controllable analog filter, and one or more outputs for carrying error generator output data signals (see Figure 5, 68 outputs and column, lines 36 - 40).

With regard to claim 2, Lee teaches an adaptive equalizer comprising one or more processing modules (see figure 4, 68) for processing error generator output data signals (see column 8, lines 18 - 24).

With regard to claim 3, Lee teaches an equalizer device where processing module compromise one or more acquisition blocks (see figure 4, 68) for applying one or more acquisition filters (see column 8, lines 18 - 28 where this is interpreted as equivalent) to one

or more of error output signals (see column 8, lines 36 – 40 where this is interpreted as equivalent) creating one or more processed signals (see figure 4, 70,72,74,76,78 where these are interpreted as equivalent) compromising one or more inputs (see figure 4, 68) for receiving error output signals and one or more outputs for carrying processed data signals (see Figure 4, 70,72,74,76,78).

With regard to claim 4, Lee teaches an equalizer device wherein one or more acquisition filters compromise an anti-aliasing filter, noise reduction filter, low pass filter or an integrator (see Figure 4, 50,56,62,70,72,78).

With regard to claim 27, 31, 32 and 33, the steps claimed as method is nothing more than restating the function of the specific components of the device as claimed above and therefore it would have been obvious considering the aforementioned rejection for the device of claim 1 – 3 respectively.

With regard to claim 34, Lee teaches that error generator output signals are digitized (see column 10, lines 64 – 67).

With regard to claim 42 - 45, Lee teaches an optical networking system (see column 1, lines 16 – 17 where this is interpreted as inclusive of optical networking systems) compromising an adaptive equalizer device with additional limitations analyzed as identical to limitations in claim 1 – 4 respectively.

4. Claims 1, 27, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shih et al (US Patent 6,563,889).

With regard to claim 1, Shih teaches an adaptive equalizer device compromising; one or more controllable analog filters (see Figure 3, 300 and column 4, lines 2 – 3) compromising; one or more data inputs (see Figure 3, Amplified signal input and column 4, lines 2 – 3), one or more control signal inputs (see Figure 3, boost adaptation signal and column 4, lines 10 –

17), and one or more outputs for carrying filtered output signals (see Figure 3, 300 output and column 4, lines 3 - 5), and one or more error generators (see Figure 3, 306) for assessing the performance (see figure 3, 306 and column 4, lines 10 – 17) of one or more controllable analog filters according to one or more error functions (see column 4, lines 10 – 13) coupled to one or more analog filters compromising; one or more inputs for receiving filtered data signals (see Figure 3, 302) from controllable analog filter, and one or more outputs for carrying error generator output data signals (see Figure 3, Boost Adaptation Signal).

With regard to claim 27, the steps claimed as method is nothing more than restating the function of the specific components of the device as claimed above and therefore it would have been obvious considering the aforementioned rejection for the device of claim 1.

With regard to claim 42, Shih teaches an optical networking system (see column 1, lines 35 – 38 and 41 – 43 where this is interpreted as inclusive of optical networking systems) compromising an adaptive equalizer device with additional limitations analyzed as identical to limitations in claim 1.

5. Claims 1, 9, 10, 15, 17, 20 – 23, 27, 42, 50, 51, 56, 58 and 61 - 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Buchwald et al (US Pub 2002/0034222 A1).

With regard to claim 1, Buchwald teaches an adaptive equalizer device compromising; one or more controllable analog filters (see Figure 19, 1400 and paragraphs 0129 and 0130) compromising; one or more data inputs (see Figure 19, 102 and paragraphs 0007 and 0008), one or more control signal inputs (paragraph 0115), and one or more outputs for carrying filtered output signals (see Figure 19, 1400 to 202), and one or more error generators (see paragraph 0115 where this is interpreted as equivalent functionality) for assessing the performance (see paragraph 0116) of one or more controllable analog filters according to one

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or more error functions (see paragraph 0117) coupled to one or more analog filters compromising; one or more inputs for receiving filtered data signals (see Figure 19, 1902) from controllable analog filter, and one or more outputs for carrying error generator output data signals (see Figure 19, 1912).

With regard to claim 9, Buchwald teaches an adaptive equalizer wherein one or more algorithms may be added, updated, activated, decommissioned, or deleted (see paragraphs 0087, 0147, 0159 where this description of system is interpreted as inclusive of functions claimed).

With regard to claim 10, Buchwald teaches an adaptive equalizer wherein one or more error functions may be added, updated, activated, decommissioned, or deleted (see paragraphs 0087, 0147, 0159 where this description of system is interpreted as inclusive of functions claimed).

With regard to claim 15, Buchwald teaches an adaptive equalizer wherein equalizer controller comprises one or more external data outputs (see paragraph 0145 where this is interpreted as equivalent).

With regard to claim 17, Buchwald teaches an adaptive equalizer wherein equalizer controller comprises one or more external data inputs⁵ (see paragraph 0147 where this is interpreted as equivalent).

With regard to claim 20, Buchwald teaches an adaptive equalizer wherein equalizer controller comprises one or more error generators compromise on or more external data outputs (see paragraph 0158 where this is interpreted as equivalent).

With regard to claim 21, Buchwald teaches a method of monitoring eye patterns (see paragraph 0069 and 0115 where this is interpreted as inclusive of error monitoring).

With regard to claim 22, Buchwald teaches an adaptive equalizer where one or more of said error generators compromise a clock or clock recovery system (see paragraph 0091 where clock control is interpreted as equivalent functionality).

With regard to claim 23, Buchwald teaches an adaptive equalizer wherein one or more of error generators are coupled to clock or clock recovery device (see paragraph 0091 where error generators are interpreted as connected to clock module).

With regard to claim 27, the steps claimed as method is nothing more than restating the function of the specific components of the device as claimed above and therefore it would have been obvious considering the aforementioned rejection for the device of claim 1.

With regard to claims 42, 50, 51, 56, 58, and 61 -64 Buchwald teaches an optical networking system (see Figure 1, 100 where this is interpreted as inclusive of optical networking systems) compromising an adaptive equalizer device with additional limitations analyzed as identical to limitations in claims 1, 9, 10, 15, 17 and 21 - 23 respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 8, and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buchwald et al (US Pub 2002/0034222 A1) in view of Glentis et al (Efficient least squares adaptive algorithms for FIR transversal filtering; Glentis, G.-O., et al; Signal Processing Magazine, IEEE , Volume: 16 , Issue: 4 , July 1999 Pages:13 - 41).

With regard to claim 8, Buchwald teaches an adaptive equalizer device wherein LMS algorithms are used (see paragraph 0148) and that his device is not limited to LMS embodiments (paragraph 0150). Glentis teaches a wide variety of equalization techniques including quasi-Newton (see page 14, 1st column 3rd paragraph) and steepest descent (see page 14, 1st column, 5th paragraph). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art at the time of invention that a variety of algorithms could be used in Buchwald's device in view of his disclosure of paragraph 0147 that a variety of algorithms could be used.

With regard to claim 49, Buchwald teaches an optical networking system (see Figure 1, 100 where this is interpreted as inclusive of optical networking systems) comprising an adaptive equalizer device with additional limitations analyzed as identical to limitations in claim 8.

7. Claims 11, and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buchwald et al (US Pub 2002/0034222 A1) in view of Glentis et al (Fast adaptive algorithms for multichannel filtering and system identification; Glentis, G.-O.A., et al; Signal Processing, IEEE Transactions on , Volume: 40 Issue 10 , Oct. 1992 Pages: 2433 - 2458).

With regard to claim 11, Buchwald teaches an adaptive equalizer device wherein analog filters are used (see paragraph 0129) and that his device is can be implemented in a variety of ways. Glentis teaches a wide variety of equalization techniques and that filter structure is dictated by equalization algorithm (see page 2439, section IV and V where lattice and transversal equalization / filtering techniques are discussed). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art at the time of invention that a variety of algorithms could be used in Buchwald's device in view of his disclosure of paragraph 0147 that a variety of algorithms could be used.

With regard to claim 52, Buchwald teaches an optical networking system (see Figure 1, 100 where this is interpreted as inclusive of optical networking systems) comprising an adaptive equalizer device with additional limitations analyzed as identical to limitations in claim 11.

Other Cited Prior Art

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kimoto et al (US Patent 5,434,883), Gaudet (US Patent 6,088,415), Girardeau Jr. et al (US Patent 6,665,337), and Phanse (US Patent 6,823,028) all teach adaptive equalization devices that appear germane to applicant's invention.

Contact Information

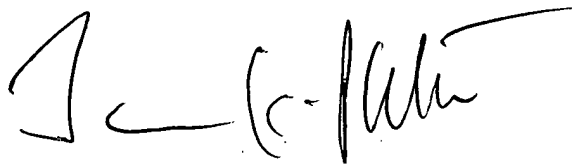
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacob Meek whose telephone number is (571)272-3013. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel can be reached on (571)272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JMM



JAY K. PATEL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER